

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a reaction rod for use in connecting a chassis (21) of a vehicle with a wheel axle housing (22) of the vehicle, where the reaction rod comprises
 - a rod-shaped central portion or rod (1) with two end portions, each with its first connecting portion (31,32),
 - two housings (2,3), each with its second connecting portion (33,34), which can be rigidly connected with the respective, first connecting portions (31,32), and each housing (2,3) has a through-going passage (4,5), and
 - two attachment pieces (8,9), each of which extends through its passage (4,5), and which on use of the reaction rod can be attached to the chassis (21) and the wheel axle housing (22) respectively,
 - where the distance between reference points (16,17) of the respective attachment pieces (8,9) establishes a functional length (F) of the reaction rod,
 - where the rod (1) and the housings (2,3) are initially assembled without being permanently interconnected, and the attachment pieces (8,9) are inserted in the respective housings (2,3),characterised by the following steps:
 - mounting the rod (1) and the attachment pieces (8,9) in a jig (50) with a positioning device (52-60) thereby securing the attachment pieces (8,9), the distance between the reference points (16,19) corresponding to the functional length (F), and

- attaching the housings (2,3) to the rod (1).

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, characterised by inserting a heat-insulating lining (41) in the passages (4,5) between the housings (2,3) and the attachment pieces (8,9), and attaching the lining rigidly thereto.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised by providing the attachment pieces (8,9) and the respective passages (4,5) and possibly the first and second connecting portions (31,32) with a relative clearance that is such as to permit a relative angular displacement of these components in order to achieve a correct relative position of the components, and subsequently to fill the clearance with a fixing means in order to secure the components in this position.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised by manufacturing the housings (8,9) by stamping, bending and possibly pressing of a plate-shaped material.

5-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a reaction rod for use in connecting a chassis (21) of a vehicle with a wheel axle housing (22) of the vehicle, where the reaction rod comprises

- a rod-shaped central portion or rod (1) with two end portions, each with its first connecting portion (31,32),
 - two housings (2,3), each with its second connecting portion (33,34), which can be rigidly connected with the respective, first connecting portions (31,32), and each housing (2,3) has a through-going passage (4,5) with a first longitudinal axis (L1) extending through a central point of the passage's cross section, and
 - two attachment pieces (8,9), each of which extends through its passage (4,5), and which on use of the reaction rod can be attached to the chassis (21) and the wheel axle housing (22) respectively, where the attachment pieces (8,9) have a second longitudinal axis (L2) extending through a centre point of the attachment pieces' cross section,
 - wherein the distance between the reference points (16,17) of the respective attachment pieces (8,9) establishes a functional length (F) of the reaction rod,
 - where the rod (1) and the housings (2,3) are initially assembled without being permanently interconnected,
- characterised by the following steps:
- establishing the contour of each attachment piece (8,9) in the direction of the second longitudinal axis (L2),
 - analysing the contour of the attachment piece (8,9) and establishing the location of the centre point of the contour,
 - calculating the distance between the attachment piece's (8,9) reference point (16,17) and centre point, considered in the direction of the attachment piece (8,9) which coincides with the finished reaction rod's longitudinal direction,

- mounting the rod (1) with the housings (2,3) in a jig with two insertion pieces, whose cross section is adapted to the cross section of the passages, and each of which has third longitudinal axes (L3), extending through the centre point of the respective insertion pieces' cross section, the insertion pieces being inserted in the respective passages,
- adjusting the distance between the third longitudinal axes (L3) of the insertion pieces in the housings in such a manner that the distance between the third longitudinal axes (L3) corresponds to the distance between the second longitudinal axes (L2) when the reference points are at a relative distance corresponding to the functional length (F),
- connecting the housings with the rod, and
- inserting the attachment pieces in the respective passages.

9. (New) A jig for manufacturing a reaction rod for use in connecting a chassis of a vehicle with a wheel axle housing of the vehicle, said reaction rod having a rod-shaped central portion and two end portions, each with protruding lugs, wherein said jig comprises:

a bottom extending in longitudinal and transverse directions;

a plurality of lug positioning devices, one at each end of said longitudinal direction of said bottom, each positioning device extending outward from a same side of said bottom and each positioning device including at least one lug opening positioned and sized to receive said lugs of said reaction rod, with an axis of said openings located in said transverse direction of said bottom,

whereby a rod-shaped central portion of a reaction rod may be positioned along said longitudinal length of said bottom, with said lugs of said reaction rod inserted into said openings to thereby establish a desired length between said lugs, and further said jig being sufficiently open to permit said end portions to be fixed to said reaction rod once said lugs are engaged in said jig.

10. (New) The jig of claim 9 wherein each said lug positioning device includes four protruding members which all project outward from said same side of said bottom, with a first two of said protruding members forming a first lug opening and a second two of said protruding members forming a second lug opening, with the said first and second lug openings located in the transverse direction across from each other, whereby two lugs on an end portion of a reaction rod may each be located in a respective one of said first and second lug openings.

11. (New) The jig of claim 10 wherein the four protruding members comprise of two supporting portions and two tension blocks.